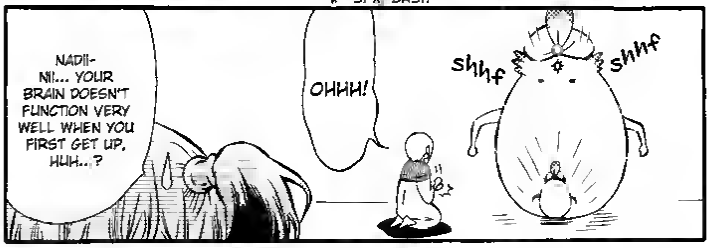
CHAPTER 4

FOR NOW PLEASE COME HOME REMEMBERING AT LEAST THE WORD "BLESSING".

五十嵐嵐 (カズシしらん)

WAKING UP AFTER THE LATE NIGHT

I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT.
Slow...?
SIGH... THEN, WHAT'S GOING ON, RUKUN?
Groan...
Oh you
NI-SAN, YOU'RE PRETTY SLOW IN THE MORNING, HUH!!?
I MEAN, DOES THIS REALLY LOOK LIKE A GROWTH SPURT!!?
Smack
PLAYING THE STRAIGHT MAN
SFX: BASH


NADII-NII... YOUR BRAIN DOESN'T FUNCTION VERY WELL WHEN YOU FIRST GET UP, HUH...?
OHHH!
shhf
shhf

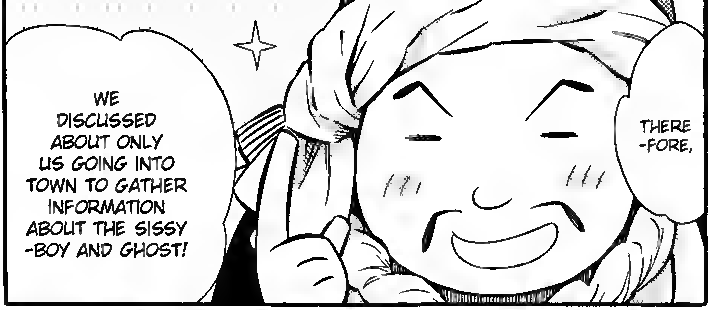
LAST NIGHT
AND YESTERDAY WAS A PARTICULAR DIFFICULT DAY TOO...
WELL, FROM THE BEGINNING HE'S NOT BEEN GOOD WITH MORNINGS

SFX STAMP
WE'RE FINALLY HOME
Yay
Soup Soup
SORRY FOR JUST BARGING IN—
...EVERY-ONE...
TODAY WAY TOO MANY THINGS HAPPENED...
I'M PROBABLY AT MY LIMIT ALREADY.
SFX COUGH
...IF YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM ME, TELL ME
...BUT FOR A BIT...
JUST LET ME REST...
...TAKE YOUR TIME.

THANKS TO YOU GUYS I WAS ABLE TO SLEEP AND HAVE RECOVERED GREATLY..
NII-SAN! THE SOUP IS DELI-CIOUS!
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD WARM FOOD SO I'M REALLY HAPPY
hehe
I'M GLAD.
I WISH MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS THIS DOCILE.
YOU HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER?
pat pat
YEAH. HIS NAME IS RAJI, BUT HE HASN'T COME HOME IN A WHILE...
EVEN SINCE WE MOVED HERE HE HASN'T COME HOME.
I WONDER WHAT RAJI-NII IS UP TO RIGHT ABOUT NOW..?

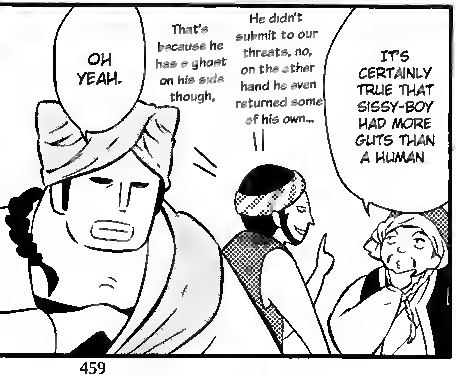
JEEZ, THAT GUY IS MAKING HIS LITTLE SISTER WORRY ABOUT HIM... COULD IT BE THAT HE'S GOTTEN MIXED UP IN SOMETHING STRANGE..? NO NO, HE HAS ALWAYS GONE ROAMING AROUND AWAY FROM THE HOUSE FOR A FEW DAYS..
But still...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOUR COMPLETELY ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF BEHAVIOR BEFITTING AN OLDER BROTHER
STARTING NOW I THOUGHT I WOULD EXPLAIN TO RUKUN THE MANY THINGS I DIDN'T GET TO LAST NIGHT
BUT COULD YOU LISTEN AS WELL, NADIR?
LISTEN? ME TOO?
In the end they also went right to sleep...
YEAH... IN OTHER WORDS,
I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO LEND A HAND
!
IN THE SEARCH FOR THE DJINNS.
LEND A HAND?

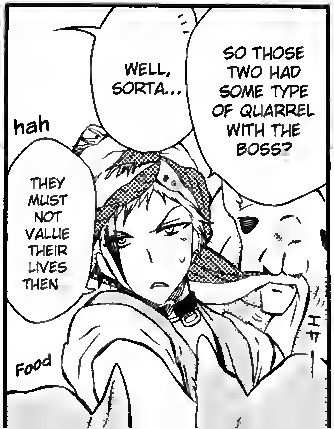
ALRIGHT, THAT'S A GOOD ATTITUDE, NEW COMER!
Nom
Nom
Nom
I, RAJI, WILL TACKLE ANY TASK WILL ALL MY ENERGY!!!
OF COURSE! PLEASE GIVE ME ANY ORDERS AT ALL, ANIKI!!
So Passionate...
RIGHT NOW HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF FEEDING THE CAMELS WITH ALL OF HIS ENERGY
LAST NIGHT, IN THE END, THERE WAS NOTHING TO SHOW FOR OUR WORK, HUH?
THE SISSY-BOY AND GHOST ESCAPED AND THERE WASN'T ANY TREASURE SO THE BOSS WENT TO BED IN A HUFF
BUT, HE S SO IRRITATED THAT HE CAN'T SLEEP
No one and nothing are here


WE DISCUSSED ABOUT ONLY US GOING INTO TOWN TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SISSY-BOY AND GHOST!
THERE-FORE,

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A LITTLE INFO IF WE TRY!
THOSE GUYS STAND OUT ANY-WAY.
MENTAL IMAGE

In reality they are going to play in town while the Boss isn't around.
WE GUESS SO.
Ohh
AS EXPECTED OF THE THREE ANIKI OF ANKABUT! IT'S JUST LIKE YOU GUYS TO CONSIDER THE BOSS' FEELINGS!!
clean
SFX.NOM

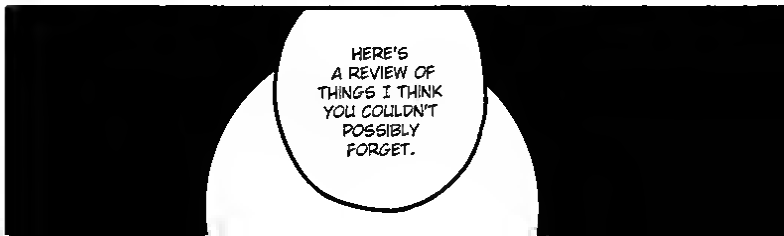

OH YEAH.
That's because he has a ghost on his side though.
He didn't submit to our threats, no, on the other hand he even returned some of his own...
IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT SISSY-BOY HAD MORE GUTS THAN A HUMAN


WELL, SORTA...
SO THOSE TWO HAD SOME TYPE OF QUARREL WITH THE BOSS?
hah
THEY MUST NOT VALUE THEIR LIVES THEN
Food

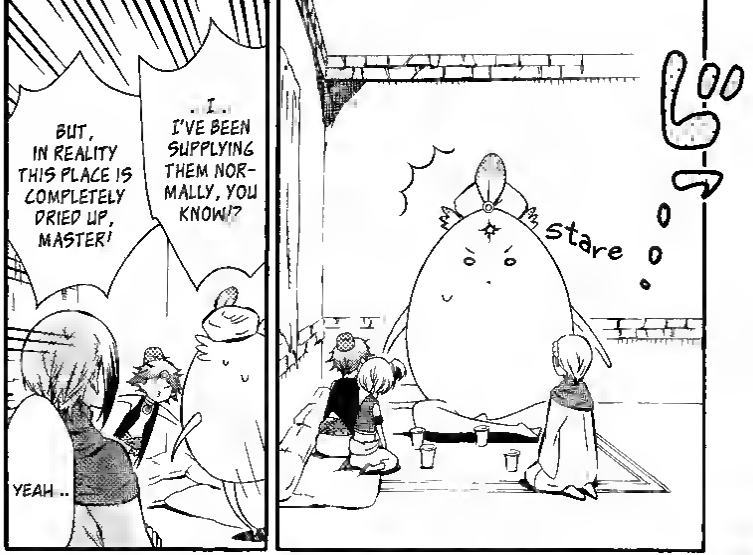
freeze
I'M GOING TO CUT OFF YOUR HAND!
HERE'S A PICTURE
Hang on to it.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SISSY-BOY LOOKS LIKE, RIGHT?
HMM
... TCH ...

SFX: BA-DUMP

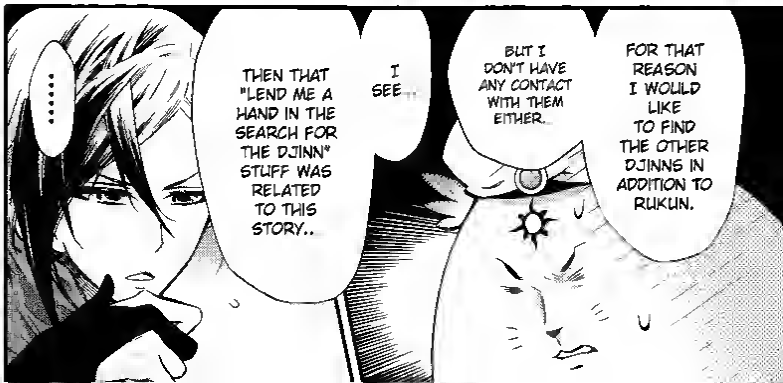
BROT ...!!
NO WAY ...!!
NO NO, DEFINITELY NO WAY ...!!
Not enough food
Food
Gnaw
SINCE YOUR HAIR MATCHES HIS YOU COULD BE BROTHERS.
HM? WHAT'S WRONG, NEWCOMER? WHY HAVE YOU TURNED AS PALE AS THAT GUY?
HIS DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC IS HOW PALE HE IS!
Hahahah
Artistic


HERE'S A REVIEW OF THINGS I THINK YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY FORGET.

I AM THE SUN.
I UNDERSTAND THAT BUT I'M STILL NOT SHOCKED.
MY JOB IS TO GIVE LIGHT AND HEAT TO THE EARTH AND ALSO RAIN DOWN <BLESSINGS>.
BLESSINGS?
THE BLESSINGS OF FERTILITY... ARE SORTA LIKE ENERGY, I GUESS.
If I put it in human terms.
Take my wonderful <blessings>!
THE ONES WHO RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS ARE THE DJINN WHO HAVE THE JOB OF SPREADING IT AROUND THE WORLD...
DJINN
Incidentally the source of the Djinns' powers are also the blessings.
BUT RECENTLY THERE'S BEEN NO SUPPLY OF BLESSINGS.. SO UNUSUAL PHENOMENA HAVE BEGAN TAKING PLACE...
OH! THEN THAT'S THE REASON FOR ALL THE WEIRD THINGS GOING ON LATELY...
YEP.

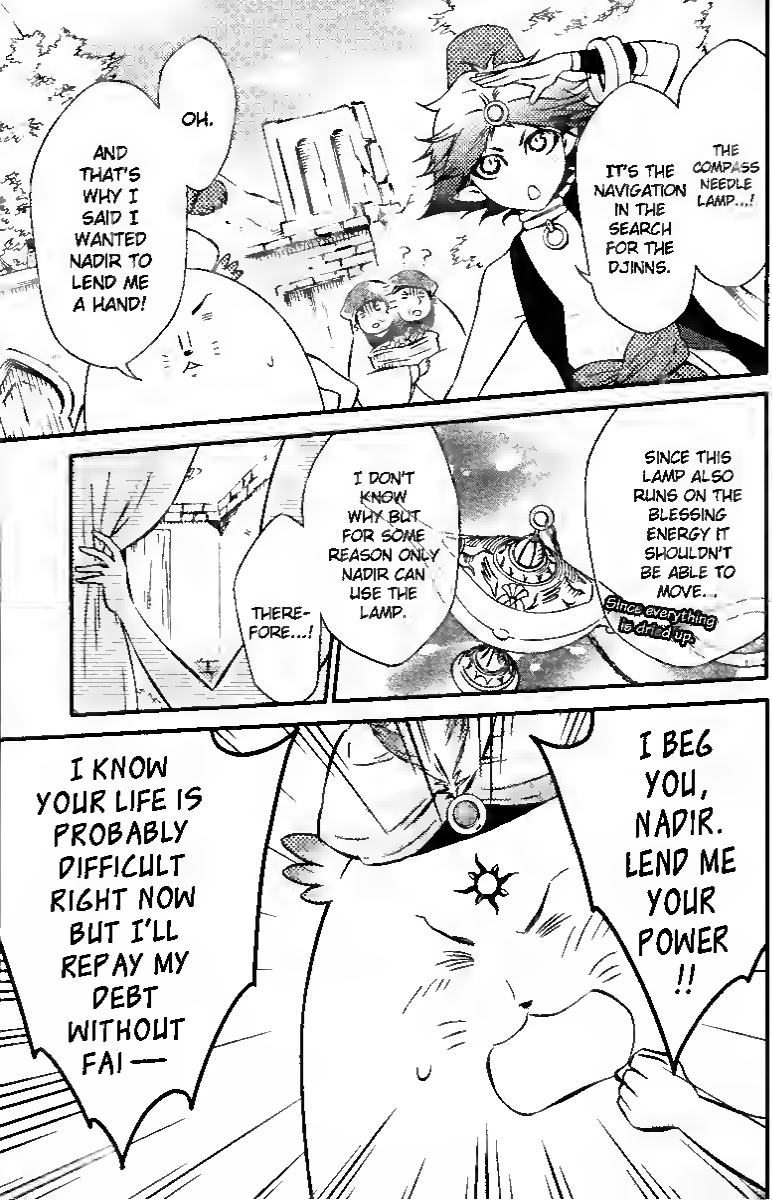

BUT, IN REALITY THIS PLACE IS COMPLETELY DRIED UP, MASTER!
. . . I'VE BEEN SUPPLYING THEM NORMALLY, YOU KNOW!?
YEAH ..
stare

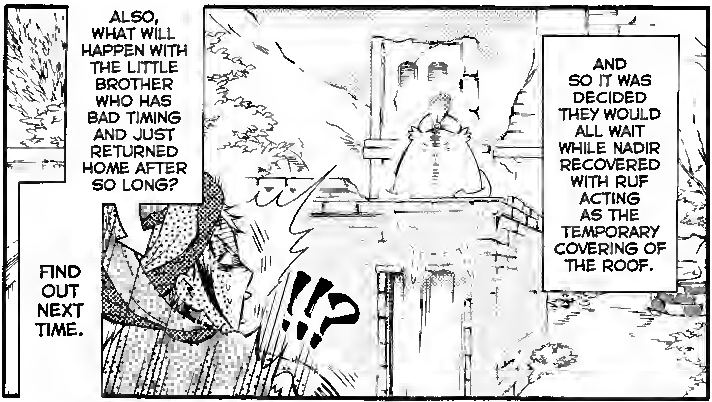
THAT'S RIGHT!
AND IN ORDER TO FIGURE THAT OUT RUF CAME DOWN TO EARTH, RIGHT?
THEN, THERE'S A MYSTERY AS TO WHY EVERYTHING HAS DRIED UP EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SUPPLYING THE BLESSINGS...


.....
THEN THAT "LEND ME A HAND IN THE SEARCH FOR THE DJINN" STUFF WAS RELATED TO THIS STORY..
I SEE...
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THEM EITHER...
FOR THAT REASON I WOULD LIKE TO FIND THE OTHER DJINNS IN ADDITION TO RUKUN.

WELL, I CAN'T HELP YOU THERE.
SO QUICKLY !!?
RUF, YOU KNOW I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF JOB-HUNTING RIGHT NOW.
I'M SORRY BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE!
HE'S IN A SITUATION WHERE HE CAN?T IGNORE HIS FAMILY CIRCUM-STANCES ...!!!
SELF-EMPL-OYED
TELEPHONE
BUT, SOMEHOW... JUST SOMEHOOW!!!
うわぁぁん
Uwaaah
COME TO THINK OF IT, MASTER.. IS IT REALLY NECES-SARY TO HAVE NII-SAN HELP OUT?
EH?
The lamp?
NADIR, HOLD THIS!
Ruf, since you charged me while I was sewing, I lodged the nipper in your stomach!
Glare
I SAID THAT THERE WAS!!

Rustle
WHAT'S GOING IT!?
SOME-THING WEIRD IS FLYING OUT OF NADIR'S HOUSE
Light?
THE LAMP RESPO-NDED SO MUCH.
THERE MUST BE A DJINN CLOSE BY
SOME-THING EVEN STRANG-ER FLEW OUT!!!
Surprise
Hurry up!


OH.
AND THAT'S WHY I SAID I WANTED NADIR TO LEND ME A HAND!
THE COMPASS NEEDLE LAMP...!
IT'S THE NAVIGATION IN THE SEARCH FOR THE DJINNS.
THERE-FORE...!
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT FOR SOME REASON ONLY NADIR CAN USE THE LAMP.
SINCE THIS LAMP ALSO RUNS ON THE BLESSING ENERGY IT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE...
Since everything is dried up.
I KNOW YOUR LIFE IS PROBABLY DIFFICULT RIGHT NOW BUT I'LL REPAY MY DEBT WITHOUT FAI —
I BEG YOU, NADIR. LEND ME YOUR POWER !!


AND SO IT WAS DECIDED THEY WOULD ALL WAIT WHILE NADIR RECOVERED WITH RUF ACTING AS THE TEMPORARY COVERING OF THE ROOF.
!!?
ALSO, WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE LITTLE BROTHER WHO HAS BAD TIMING AND JUST RETURNED HOME AFTER SO LONG?
FIND OUT NEXT TIME.

ZERO-SUM 1月号 11月28日発売に続く

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Scans
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